

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of October 10, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-19 are requested.

The Office Action

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 1-3, 5-6, and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Maeda et al. (US 5,966,310) in view of Bodor et al. (US 6,201,546).

Claims 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Maeda et al. in view of Bodor et al. in further view of Levy (US 6,731,324).

The Present Application

The present application is concerned with reducing patient anxiety, particularly in patients who are scheduled to undergo a medical procedure such as an MRI exam. It describes a method and system for enabling a patient who is preparing to undergo a medical procedure to obtain information on the medical care equipment in a user friendly way which is close to a real life experience. The method and system comprise a user interface, an input for indicating selected medical care equipment on the user interface, and a computer for receiving an indication of the selected medical care equipment from the user interface, and for transmitting, on receipt of said indication, information relating to the indicated medical care equipment to the user interface. The method and system also generates a two-dimensional view, from a viewpoint selected by the user (including inside), of a three-dimensional representation of the selected medical care equipment that is stored in a database and the sounds the equipment makes. This enables the patient to experience the procedure virtually to become familiar with what is going to happen or to control a computer animation of a character undergoing the procedure. The patient himself/herself is in control and can become familiar with the equipment at his/her own speed.

The above description of the present application is presented to the Examiner as background information to assist the Examiner in understanding the application. The above description is not used to limit the claims in any way.

The References of Record

Maeda et al. is a computer aided design (CAD) system for designing personal equipment which suits the sensibility and the physical features of a user. The user inputs user information such as sensibility and physical features of the user. The system designs the appearance of the equipment using the user information inputting section. The produced equipment having the designed appearance intended by the user is produced on the basis of the inputted user information.

Bodor et al. is directed to a computer aided design (CAD) system for creating a three dimensional, textured model of at least one object. The method of use includes identifying regions of the at least one object in a number of two dimensional images of the one object. The method further interrelates the regions identified from the two dimensional images and stores data concerning the region, including its texture, in a data structure that represents a three dimensional model of the object.

Levy is directed to a video conferencing system for video telecommunication between a host site and a remote site for medical applications. The host site and remote site have computer assemblies constructed and arranged to form a computerized video telecommunications system between them. The remote site includes medical apparatus and procedures having visual and/or audio recognition systems.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 7 has been amended pursuant to the Examiner's recommendation.

**The Claims Distinguish Patentably
Over the References of Record**

Claim 1-3, 5-6, and 9-10 are patentable over **Maeda et al.** in view of **Bodor et al.**

Claim 6 has been placed in independent form but has not been substantively amended.

More specifically, regarding **claim 6**, **Maeda et al.** does not disclose a "step of selecting, from a database comprising three-dimensional representations of medical care equipment, a three-dimensional representation of the indicated medical

care equipment”, “a step of generating a two-dimensional view from a selected viewpoint of the selected three-dimensional representation” and “wherein a viewpoint may be selected from which a two-dimensional view of an inside area of a medical examination device is generated.” The Examiner refers Applicant to Col. 10 lines 5-8, Col. 24 lines 8-27, Fig 6-8, Col. 13 line 66 – Col. 14 line 13, Col. 5 lines 39 – Col. 6 line 13, and Col. 17 lines 32-43 of Maeda. But these portions of Maeda disclose a system to design personal equipment suiting the physical features and sensibility of a user. Maeda discloses a system in which a user selects basic product shapes that are stored in a database and then synthesizes the basic product shapes through an analysis and inference engine and changes the design of the appearance of the basic equipment based on the user information inputted about the user’s personality and physical features. The analysis and inference engine takes a basic product shape and produces a shape product that represents and appearance designed by the user based on the sensibility of the user. Additionally, Maeda discloses the use of virtual reality so the user has an experience of the use of the equipment having the designed appearance under a certain environment. Maeda also discloses a system that allows corrected two-dimensional views to be designed in a three-dimensional manner from the data representing the corrected two dimensional views. It is respectfully submitted that Maeda does not disclose enabling a user to obtain information on medical care equipment by selecting a particular piece of medical care equipment from a user interface and then selecting a viewpoint in which to view the piece of medical care equipment from a three dimensional representation of the particular piece of medical care equipment stored in a database. Additionally, Maeda does not disclose producing a two dimensional view of the viewpoint selected from the three-dimension representation of the particular piece of medical equipment in order for a patient to gather more information and understanding of the particular piece of medical care equipment. Maeda also does not disclose the viewpoint being a two-dimensional view of the inside of a medical examination device is generated.

Maeda does not disclose anything relating to medical care equipment. The Examiner refers Applicant to the abstract and Col. 17 lines 32-42 of Bodor which discloses a method for creating three dimensional textured models from two dimensional images which may also be applicable to, for example, creating three

dimensional, textured models for newspapers, books, post cards, greeting cards, playing cards, photo albums, clothes, building exteriors, home furnishings, cards, packaged goods, folders, office products, computers, cameras, medical devices and equipment, machinery, mechanical parts, tools, exercise equipment, toys, jewelry, musical instruments, online CD sales, book sales (by displaying the front and back covers), magazines, corporate image products (mugs and caps with logos), real estate interiors, remodeling of interiors (base model to be used with additional software package), online grocery shopping. It is respectfully submitted that Bodor does not teach storing three dimensional representations of medical care equipment in a database and creating a two-dimensional view of a particular piece of medical care equipment, selected by a user, from its three dimensional representation stored in the database.

Maeda and Bodor are both CAD design systems. It is respectfully that neither Maeda, nor Bodor, nor the combination address the problem addressed by the present application, much less teach a method or system for enabling a user to obtain information on medical care equipment by viewing a two dimensional view of a particular piece of medical care equipment, chosen by the user, created from a selected viewpoint from a three dimensional representation of the particular piece of medical care equipment.

Claim 1 calls for a step of offering a person an option to indicate a selected medical care equipment on a user interface and a step of transmitting information in the form of a two dimensional from a selected viewpoint of the three-dimensional representation. It is respectfully that neither Maeda, nor Bodor, nor the combination teach thereof, teach enabling a user to obtain information on medical care equipment by selecting a particular piece of medical care equipment from a user interface and then selecting a viewpoint in which to view the piece of medical care equipment from a three dimensional representation of the particular piece stored in a database and producing a two dimensional view of the viewpoint selected from the three-dimension representation of the particular piece of medical equipment.

Accordingly it is submitted that independent **claim 1** and **claims 2-5, 7-9 and 11-18** that depend therefrom distinguish patentable over the references of record.

Regarding **claim 3**, it is respectfully submitted that neither Maeda, nor Bodor, nor the combination teach thereof, teach generating a sequence of two dimensional views depicting the medical care equipment performing a selected medical care activity.

Claims 4 and 7 are patentable over Maeda in view of Bodor, in further view of Levy.

Regarding **claim 4**, Levy discloses a video conference method to provide particular services related to medical applications as well as an audio recognition system so that a technician can easily identify a particular problem or general condition of a device. It is respectfully that neither Maeda, nor Bodor, nor Levy nor the combination teach thereof, teach that the information should enable a patient to obtain information on a piece of medical care equipment.

Regarding **claim 7**, it is respectfully that neither Maeda, nor Bodor, nor Levy nor the combination teach thereof, teach the audible information being the operating sounds of the device nor achieve the advantage of providing information to help a patient understand a piece of medical examination device.

Various dependent claims have been amended and new dependent claims have been added to bring out the distinctions relative to the prior art more clearly.

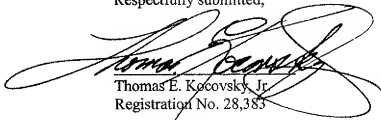
Claim 10 calls for a user interface for selecting medical care equipment for selecting viewpoints including the viewpoint of a patient experiencing medical care with the medical care equipment, means for selecting, from the database, a three-dimensional representation based on the indication of the selected medical care equipment, and means for generating a two-dimensional view from the selected viewpoint. It is respectfully that neither Maeda, nor Bodor, nor the combination thereof, teach a user interface configured to select medical care equipment, a computer means which receives an indication of the selected medical care equipment from the user interface and transmits, on receipt of said indication, information relating to the indicated medical care equipment to the user interface, and a means for generating a two-dimensional view, from the selected viewpoint.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that **claims 1-19** (all claims) distinguish patentably over the references of record and meet all statutory requirements. An early allowance of all claims is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone Thomas Kocovsky at 216.363.9000.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Thomas E. Kocovsky, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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